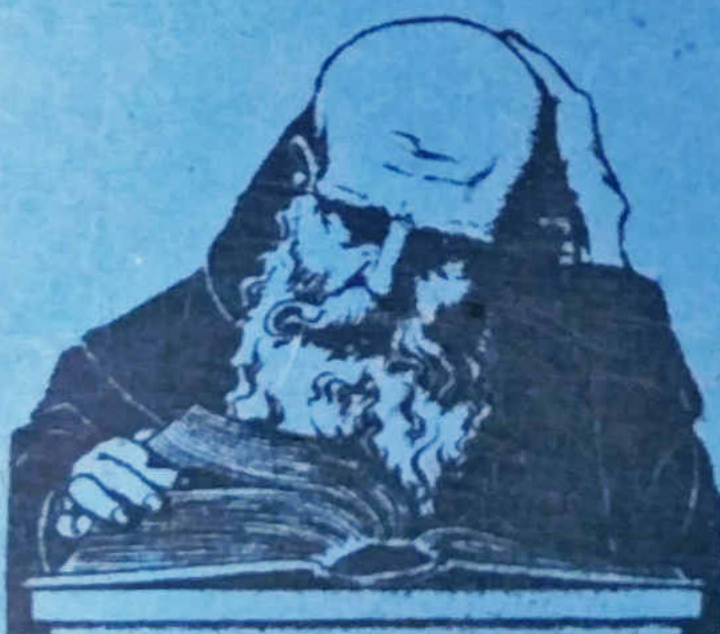
# INSPIRED INSIGHTS

R. STANLEY



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# INSPIRED INSIGHTS

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# What are Inspired Insights?

Apart from meditating the Bible and praying, I give myself regularly to the exercise of thinking. This I do during my travels, morning and evening walks, and leisure hours. Sometimes I myself choose a subject to think about. Other times I dwell on subjects which flash across my mind. At the end of this exercise I find myself in a position to capsulate the thoughts. I write them down in my notebook and check them further with the spirit of the Scriptures. When the conviction grows deeper that the thought is a truth, I call it an *Inspired Insight.* What is published in this booklet is culled from my diaries of 1991 to 1995.

Unlike the inspired writings of the Biblical authors, I do not claim infallibility of my *Inspired Insights.* But the validity of these insights is confirmed by the three witnesses: the promptings of the Spirit, the principles of the Scriptures, and the preva-

lence of the situation. Thank God for His twin gifts of the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge. Because most of the insights are analytical, they may sound critical. I believe in constructive criticism — "to pull down and to build up!" (Jer 1:10).

These 132 *Inspired Insights* are not arranged in any order. They appeared as strings in the Blessing magazine now and then. They are put together in the same sequence. You may choose to read any two pages to get food for thought on various subjects. I suggest that you go through just two pages in a sitting and go ruminating on the thoughts. I pray that the Holy Spirit will sharpen your understanding more and more on these subjects. Feel free to quote these *Inspired Insights.*

If you are able to improve on the language or the content of these Insights, I shall be happy to incorporate your suggestions in the next edition. You will be greatly rewarded by this exercise of heart and head.

# INSPIRED INSIGHTS

"Unless" and "until" are the two keywords of the Kingdom of God. "Unless" you are born of the Spirit, you cannot enter the Kingdom. "Until" you are baptized with the Spirit, you cannot expand the Kingdom.



All believers in Christ are theologians. But all theologians are not necessarily believers. Theology is simply the knowledge of God—but, knowing God begins with a personal faith in Christ.



It is wrong to specify any particular believer as "gifted." All believers are "gifted." There's no believer who is not gifted within the Body of Christ.



By dividing the people of God as clergy and laymen, we have made the latter a majority of lame men.



The Holy Spirit is either too poor or stingy if He has only nine gifts to give us. Let's not dare to limit God to any list.



If we collect all the unread Bibles from Christians, we will not need to print new Bibles for several years!



We talk so much about the pattern of the New Testament church and ministry. Good—But, where is the power? I'd prefer a bullock cart to a Benz car that has no engine.



Beware of a Christless Pentecost as much as of a Pentecostless Christianity.



We have Bible-minus churches as well as Bible-plus churches. The former subtract the positive and explicit teaching of the Scriptures towards their traditions. To Christian life the latter add laws and regulations which the Bible does not plainly teach. We must stand for Bible plus-or-minus nothing, both in our doctrine and deed.



The pastor who builds his congregation without the help of apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers is like the mason who tries to construct a building without carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, and electricians. Hardly does any minister have all the gifts. Even Moses and Solomon needed men like Bezaleel and Hiram for their building work.



It is not enough to claim the power of Acts 1:8; we should also carry out the programme outlined therein.



The Church has developed bed sores.



One who is sent is not superior to the One

who sent him (Jn 13:16). The spirituality of the sending churches is as important as that of the missionaries they send.



Those not dead to casteism and regionalism have no right to talk about cross-cultural evangelism.



If the work becomes more important than the worker in the philosophy of a missionary organisation, it will no more be a mission but a machine.



If you present the prospects of missionary work, you will enroll workers. But if you present the problems, you will only enroll supporters.



It is hypocrisy to shake hands when hearts are separated (2 Ki 10:15,16).



The greatest miracle of Pentecost was not tongues or prophecies or healings, but thousands of believers enjoying their material goods in common. This is the most difficult thing to practise. Try and see!



If we cannot put our heads together, let's atleast join our tails like Samson's foxes and together burn down the enemy-altars.



Leadership training programmes are numerous these days. The tragedy however is that many trainers are not leaders themselves! They have simply learnt the principles of leadership from books or they happen to be holding executive positions. Little wonder we have more managers than leaders in our churches and missions.



Leadership means sacrifice. Good leadership means a greater sacrifice (Jn 10:11).



I admire two men – John the Baptist and John (Wesley) the Methodist!



Prophets are trained by God and trimmed by the Spirit. They can neither be tutored by men nor tamed by systems.



We have lots of discussions but little direction. The horizontal is useless without the vertical.



Elijah said, It's enough. Jesus said, It's finished. It's never enough until it's finished.



If you don't open the door of your heart when Jesus knocks at it, how do you expect Him to open the door of Heaven when you knock at it in an hour of need?



Rebirth makes us allergic to what we were addicted to and it makes us addicted to what we were allergic to. That is the meaning of all things becoming new.



TB affects the lungs; TV affects the heart.



The Bible nowhere teaches that speaking in tongues is the only evidence of receiving the Spirit. On the other hand, it emphatically states that subduing the tongue is the ultimate evidence of true spirituality. We need gifts as well as fruits but we are known by our fruits.



When we reject salvation, we receive the grace of God in vain. When we neglect soulwinning, we receive the power of God in vain. The former is the sin of sinners

and the latter the sin of saints.



Instead of challenging all Christians to "Go," we called them to "Go or Send." The majority decided to stay back and send others. Men always choose easy alternatives.



When Paul was converted, he became greatly burdened for his fellow Jews (Rom 9:1,2). But most of today's preachers, who are Hindu or Moslem converts, have built a convenient camp and covetable pulpits among Christians. Don't we yet realize that 83% of Indians are Hindus and 10% Moslem?



The sucess of a gospel campaign is measured in terms of how many non-Christians join the Church and not by how many Christians join the evangelist's scheme or subscribe to his magazine.



Gathering of the Church is to edify the saints so they may evangelize the sinners for gathering them into the Church. Other reasons are secondary.



We don't witness enough because we don't believe enough. Unbelief mutes us (2 Cor 4:13; Lk 1:20).



The left hand of friendship is a prelude to the "right hand of fellowship." Jesus embraced the friendship of sinners in order to establish the fellowship of saints. A fellowship of saints without friendship among themselves is not aromatic and that without friendship with outsiders is unattractive.



When we follow Jesus, He makes us fishers of men (Mt 4:19). When we love Him, He makes us shepherds of men (Jn 21:15-17). Bringing men to Christ and building them in Him are the twin responsibilities of every Christian. To be successful in this calling, we should constantly pattern our lives after Christ and passionately love Him.



Why are we weak in evangelism and withered in Church life? Is it because most of our evangelistic meetings are addressed by pastors and churches are pastored by evangelists?



A tip for Church growth : Close the church building for a month and challenge the members to bring one new person each when the church reopens. Incidentally, you will also find out if your church will survive persecution.



We are crazy about goods "Made in Japan." But we have a Bible "Made in Heaven." Are we more interested in imported goods rather than imparted gifts?



Judas Iscariot said that the cost of Mary's perfume could have been spent for the poor. "This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box" (Jn 12:6). Those who establish orphanages and institutions for the poor better examine their motives.



We have too many fire fighters and fire extinguishers in the Church. Most of them are in the leadership. They put out the fire of the Spirit at its first sign. Why don't we light a fire under their chairs?



While imprisoned, Peter was sleeping

soundly and Paul was sounding songs. The former was peaceful and the latter joyful. They had learnt to relax and rejoice in depressing and difficult situations. Peter knew whom he had tasted and Paul knew whom he had trusted (1 Pet 2:3; 2 Tim 1:12).



One reason why the Lord takes us to various places and keeps us in different situations is to give us His visions. He took Ezekiel to a river, a mountain and a city, and John to an island for the same purpose. Keep therefore your eyes and ears open.



The Roman Catholics have halted between Christmas and Calvary. The non-Pentecostal Protestants have halted between Calvary and Pentecost. The Pentecostals have halted somewhere after Pentecost. There's a sound of moving on the mulberry trees. Move on brothers, move on!



Frontier missions is but an extension of neighbourhood evangelism. Those who do no soulwinning in Jerusalem are not fit to

go to Samaria. Charity begins at home.



Don't substitute work for worship or worship for work. Work while you work and pray while you pray. While the unbelievers are worshipping work, the believers should not worship worship.



For Judas, 30 silver coins were more precious than Jesus. But, for Mary, her Master was more precious than 300 silver coins. He earned 30 coins for betrayal and she emptied 300 for burial. "Lord, Examine me whether I serve You or money."



Dear preacher friend, Do you aim at making people happy or holy? Are you simply inflating them with words of excitement or imparting to them divine equipments? Make sure your congregation will be a crown and not a shame to you before the Judgement Seat of Christ.



Too many sermons on "Never worry!" have reduced in us even the burden for lost souls. Too many messages on "Never fear!" have removed from us even the fear of God. Prophets who simply comfort the

people without convicting or challenging them are out of balance (1 Cor 14:3; Heb 4:1).



God told Joshua, "You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward" (Dt 2:3). I believe this is what the Spirit says to the Tamil and Malayalee preachers: "You have circled around Tamilnadu and Kerala long enough; turn northward!"



Watering the fields in Egypt was by foot, whereas in Canaan the land drank water from the rain of heaven (Dt 11:10, 11). This distinguishes the ministry done by mere human strength and that carried out with the power of the Spirit from Above.



God buried Moses in a spot known to no man. God took away Elijah to Heaven without a need for a grave. It was perhaps because God knew that even a key apostle like Peter would immediately launch out projects to build shrines for such saints on their graves (Dt 34:6; 2 Ki 2:11; Mk 9:5; 6). Beware of all forms of idolatry!



When commissioning his son to rule God's people and build His temple, David said to the congregation, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced" (1 Chron 29:1). But so many pastors and preachers exaggerate the gifts and abilities of their sons and daughters and appoint them as their heirs. Here lies a reason for the ruin of many ministries after the founders.



We preach and sing that God is moving one more time. When was He sleeping or idling? He has always been working (Jn 5:17). The question is whether "we" are moving with Him or not. We tour a lot but move little.



Christ is not even in the tomb. But we are still keeping Him on the tree. Only when we realize that He is on the Throne, can we experience New Testament Christianity.



The greatest promise of the New Testament is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus called it "The" Promise of the Father. This gift therefore is not to be discussed or debated but believed and re-

ceived.



Preachers of those days endured shame for the Name of Jesus. But preachers of these days enjoy fame by His Name. Are we preaching another Jesus?



The prison gates opened for Peter supernaturally even while he was restfully sleeping. But he had to repeatedly knock at the door of Mary's house until it was opened by its residents. God performs supernatural miracles only when they are absolutely necessary. Therefore, work as if everything depends on you; and pray as if everything depends on God.



Women and youth are treated as second class citizens in the Church. Until the Church leaders address these two groups positively in their messages and apply them properly in the ministry, the enemy will be at an advantage.



God under the New Covenant does not sanctify places or anoint objects but only people. He has specifically said that in the

last days He would pour out His Spirit on all "flesh." Therefore claiming spiritual sanctity today on any place, building or object is outright idolatry.



It is good to be talking about heavenly things, but don't fail in walking on the earth as a Christian. Even God keeps His feet on earth with His seat in Heaven!



Some churches are like dungeons. There's no sunshine, showers or breeze. Don't blame those who exit such fellowships to escape suffocation.



The blind hear; The deaf see; The dumb walk; The lame speak. This much is ofcourse true in most of the healing crusades where tall claims are made. Paul said, "I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me... in mighty signs and wonders" (Rom 15:18, 19).



To be at the feet of Jesus is more important than to be on foot for Him. But if the former does not lead to the latter, we have got it all wrong.



Millions perish outside the parish. The Chief Shepherd taught that the lost sheep was more important than the sheep safe in the fold. Therefore a pastor who is not missionary-minded is not a true shepherd.



I am repeatedly asked to explain how to discern the genuineness of prophesying. My simple answer is : Every tree is known by its fruit; so also every gift is known by its effect.



Taming the tongue surpasses talking in tongues. Failure in the former dissipates the power derived from the latter. At the Judgement Seat of Christ, our talks will be a factor of consideration and not tongues. I speak in tongues daily, but I beg God for strength to subdue my tongue.



In the day of the prophets, though people did not repent in their hearts they atleast rent their garments. We do neither. Condemning the outward acts void of inner attitude is right, but being too critical may steal from us brokenness and repentance. Beware!



Jesus turned water into wine, but preachers turn wine into water. Paul mourned that he had to feed the Corinthians with milk instead of meat. But Christians today demand milk diluted and skimmed. I have a question: Should preachers lower the pulpit to the pew level or lift the pew to the pulpit?



Dear leaders of lifeless old churches, "Don't despise the small groups and fellowships God is raising all over the world. Remember," "A living dog is better than a dead lion!"



It was to a church that was active in the exercising of spiritual gifts Paul gave regulatory instructions (1 Cor 1:4-8; 14:12). How foolish it is to talk about the misuse of gifts to a congregation where not even the basic gifts of tongues and prophecies are in operation!



Paul predicted that after his departure, savage wolves would come to devour the flock (Acts 20:29). Peter prophesied that after his death, seductive workers would come to deceive the flock (2 Pet 2:1,2). What an awesome responsibility on the

secondline leaders!



Unless we take time to let God speak TO us, we cannot expect Him to speak THROUGH us. Unless we spend time to speak TO God, we will not have inspiration to speak FOR Him. Those who are irregular in personal prayer and Bible meditation will be flops in the field.



Everyone is responsible not only for himself but also for others (Gal 6:2,5). A balanced Christian neglects not his own life nor ignores the needs of others.



Good shepherds let the sheep feed wherever there are green pastures. The sheep enjoy the privilege of going "in and out" (Jn 10:9b). But if pastors discourage the congregations from receiving any external input, the result will be overfed shepherds and underfed sheep.



He who opposes Christ and His words is an anti-Christ. He who opposes the Holy Spirit and His works is an anti-Spirit. Just as there are many anti-Christs in the world, there are many anti-Spirits in the Church.

The latter group hinders the work of God more than the former.



Leaders are called to take God's people from babyhood to perfect adulthood (Eph 4:11-16). But when they do their praying for them, make their decision-making for them, and protect them from failure, they keep them in perpetual infancy. If not, why are our churches full of 10, 30 and 50 year old babies?



We all desire to grow in faith, but very few to grow in sacrifice. Abraham's obedience to God in sending away his son Ishmael prepared him to sacrifice Isaac. Faith stirs us up to sacrifice, and sacrifice in turn strengthens faith.



We watch a picture for three hours. But to watch in prayer for one hour, we talk of the psychology of our limited power of concentration. How long will the Lord put up with us?



Presenting Christ as the Saviour, Healer and Baptizer with the Holy Spirit is the full

gospel. But presenting Christ as the Apostle and challenging people for missionary evangelism is the fullest gospel!



The Jews despised the Samaritans so much that they often intentionally walked three days out of their way to bypass Samaria. Only when we die to pride and prejudice and walk through Samaria like Jesus, can we reap the white harvest of entire villages.



Instead of bearing the cross and following Christ, we are simply wearing the cross and following the crowd. A greater tragedy is our ignorance of the difference.



A battery that is recharged frequently without being used will retire soon. Christians who get refilled in every meeting but never win souls rebate soon.



Peter identified Pentecost as the last days. After about 40 years, John asserted that they were living in the last hour (1 Jn 2:18). Now 2000 years later, are we not then liv-

ing in the last minutes? Should we not therefore expect an unparalleled outpouring of the Spirit and an unprecedented ingathering of souls?



According to John's narrative, while cleansing the temple, Jesus drove away the cattlesellers and overturned the tables of moneychangers. But to the sellers of doves, He simply said, "Take away these things!" (Jn 2:14-16). Though leaders should be impartial, their dealings will have to differ from individual to individual.



When Hagar ran away from Sarah, God sent her back to her mistress. But again after sixteen years God Himself sent Hagar away from the same mistress. Blessed are those who run not ahead of God or lag behind, but learn to stay put where God places them until He gives next orders.



It was told concerning Joseph that he was "a fruitful vine by a well" (Gen 49:22). Interestingly, thousands of years later, near his very well an adulteress was converted and instantly became a fruitful witness (Jn 4:5,6,16-18,39). Remember, Joseph fled

adultery when he was young?



It is a false yardstick to measure a preacher's impact on society by the crowd he attracts. History is replete with men and women who were least popular in their times but who permanently affected people's minds by what they wrote or spoke even to individuals or small groups. I therefore exhort young ministers not to compromise on their convictions or dilute doctrines to become a star personality.



Prayer is deficient if it is just asking. Seeking and knocking must follow. Ask God for daily bread, but go seeking a job, knocking doors of opportunities. Divine power never overtakes human responsibility. Actionlessness is as sinful as prayerlessness.



"What must I do?" asked a young man. Jesus asked him back, "What do you read in the Scriptures?" The primary duty of preachers is to turn people to the Bible to search for themselves rather than make them glued to them for so-called prophetic

words.



If you don't tithe, you are a thief. If you tithe to a pastor or preacher who does not account for it, you make him a thief. God's message to the pew and the pulpit: "Thieve no longer!"



When we are fighting with Satan we must keep faith above all weapons (Eph 6:16). When we are fellowshipping with saints we must keep love above all virtues (1 Cor 13:13). Faith releases God's power. Love rehearses God's passion. Growing in both makes us strong Christians.



It is not enough for evangelists to lead unbelievers to Christ. They must also lead believers to the Christless. At first Jesus said, Come! Later He said, Go!



False doctrines spread faster. Half truth and untruth are always more attractive and appealing (Gen 3:4,5). Here lies the greatest temptation to preachers to deviate from sincere handling of the Scriptures to ascend the Throne of Popularity.



Beware of your prayers! God may answer them! Had Jesus asked the Father, He would have sent for Him battalions of angels in Gethsemane. That would have been just the permissive will of God rather than His perfect will revealed in the Scriptures (Mt 26:53,54). A sad statement about Israel: "He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul" (Psa 106:15).



Even if a Scripture passage is seemingly difficult to understand, keep reading it. The Holy Spirit knows when to send you a Philip to explain to you the meaning of the passage.



God is supernatural; but all that is supernatural is not necessarily of God. Being Scriptural is spiritual; but all that is spiritual may not be Scriptural. Unless a Christian knows these differences, he is vulnerable to deception.



If you believe in Heaven, you will run to Church regularly to rejoice with the saints. If you believe in Hell, you will rush outside the Church to rescue the sinners. Jesus preached more about Hell than about

Heaven.



Giving to missionary work is not only our responsibility but also our opportunity. When we think of giving merely as our duty, we will be calculative; when we consider it a delight, we will be enthusiastic. One is legalism and the other love.



Doctrinal deviations and deceptions are more common among Pentecostals and Charismatics than among the Christians of mainline denominations. I once criticized the latter group for repeating like a parrot the creeds of the Church fathers. But now I realise that their liturgical repetitions have kept them from being carried away by every wind of doctrine. "Lord, forgive me for what I said in ignorance!"



Roman Catholics worship Mary who brought forth Jesus into the world. Protestants worship ministers who bring them to Jesus. Both the groups are thus guilty of idolatry which God hates. Let's repent!



The only fasting most of us know is fasting

from the Word of God, the Bread of Heaven. We eat at meal times compulsorily. Why don't we have the same discipline to feed our soul? Why talk about material and physical prosperity when we suffer from spiritual poverty?



My consistent twofold advice to Christian workers : Never be satisfied; Never be discouraged. Strive to do better and go deeper; Try again and never give up.



Paul a church-destroyer became a church-planter. Peter a coward of the worst sort turned to be a daring witness. John a powermonger was transformed into an apostle of love. Zacchaeus a corrupt tax-officer was converted to be an outstanding philanthropist. What have you become?



It was Jesus who asked His disciples to take swords as they were going to Gethsamane. But He rebuked Peter when he misused his sword. Similarly the gifts of the Spirit can be misused as toys for our enjoyment or trophies to exhibit our greatness. But they are given as tools to

enable us fulfill the Scriptures in life and ministry (Mt 26:52,54).



Jesus commanded His disciples to raise the dead; but many pastors are killing the living by their dead sermons, meaningless traditions and lifeless rituals. And people pay to get killed! Dear lambs, escape these slaughter houses!



Even many inside the church don't bend their knees before Christ and confess His Lordship. How then do we expect the outsiders to do it? It's impractical to look for an unprecedented harvest among the non-Christians without an unusual revival among the Christians. Let's repeat the prayer of Evan Roberts: "Lord, bend the Church and bless the world!"



When the earth quaked in California, God was shaking the pornographic centre of the West. The quake in Latur of India was a shake-up of the idol belt of the East. The Japanese earthquake has cracked the industrial heartland of the Far East. God is shattering whatever man is priding of.

Everything that can be shaken will be shaken, so only that which cannot be shaken may remain!



Some years ago when asked whether they had received the Holy Spirit, some Christians used to answer, "I have received power but not the Spirit." Today the answer is reversed as, "I have received the Spirit but not power!" Both are wrong because it is dependent on feelings rather than on the facts of God's Word. The truth is that if we have received the Holy Spirit we have received His power also (Acts 1:8). Only when we move out to witness for Christ we will see the manifestation of that power.



Attending too many healing meetings and reading too many healing magazines, will soon make you sick and you will die of earthly-mindedness, materialism, short-sightedness and selfishness. For every healing crusade you attend, I recommend you to attend atleast six missionary conventions or programmes; and for every healing magazine atleast six missionary magazines. Do you know that out of the seven

requests in the Lord's prayer, only one refers to our bodily needs?



What we need is not more power, but boldness to go out in the power we already have; not more revelation, but obedience to what has already been revealed; not more gifts, but use of the gifts already bestowed. The reversal of emphasis has given the enemy a foothold to get us sidetracked.



When Jesus obeyed God at the River, the Holy Spirit came on Him. When He disobeyed Satan in the desert, the Angels came to Him. Heaven ignores no act of obedience but honours it.



We are called to be saints, and commissioned to be soldiers. Saints enjoy worship, and soldiers enthuse warfare. If saints are not soldierly, the Kingdom will not expand. If soldiers are not saintly, the Kingdom will not exemplify. A Biblical Christian is a saint and a soldier at the same time.



We spread bad news about others. But we share not the good news of Jesus. The former is the misuse of the gift of speaking and the latter its disuse. Tongue is a fire. It can either burn people or bless them depending on how it is used. We will be judged for what we shouldn't have said and should have spoken.



Privileges are responsibilities. And responsibilities are privileges. It's childishness that enjoys privileges and evades responsibilities. It's burdensome when we fulfill responsibilities forgetting they are privileges. It's maturity to hold both responsibilities and privileges in proper balance.



In committee meetings there's discussion based on informations; whereas in prayer meetings we get direction because of inspiration. While both are necessary, the final orders must come from the Almighty (Prov 19:21).



In South India the number of Bible Schools and Colleges have multiplied in hundreds, but there are not enough students. Similarly there are numerous orphanages with-

out enough orphans. Several orphanages have started enrolling semi-orphans and non-orphans. This is the regrettable result of sincere pastors and preachers selling their calling for dollars and deutchmarks.



The choice of Stephen and Philip by the disciples for serving tables was obviously not the best. Immediately after their appointment for the said responsibility they were seen as powerful open-air and frontier evangelists. Yes, no man or human institution, however godly, can frustrate God's calling concerning us when we stay committed with Him.



It is much easier to cast out a legion of evil spirits from a person than to get a congregation of Spirit-filled believers out to witness to the people. Certain kinds of devils will not go except by fasting and prayer. Certain Christians will not go out unless...



It is to those who would go to the end of the earth that Jesus promised He would be with them till the end of the world. Similarly it is to the Philippian believers

who supplied the necessities of Paul in his missionary journeys that he assured that God would supply all their needs. The devil has cleverly concealed the conditions of God's promises from our eyes but pushed us into the profitless exercise of claiming the promises only.



By a balanced Christian we do not mean a neutral Christian. A balanced Christian is one who knows what to emphasize, when, and how much. He avoids eccentric emphasis of any one truth or experience. On the other hand, the neutral Christian has no courage or conviction, and he goes nowhere. He takes the middle-of-the-road position because his aim is to please the world, whereas the balanced Christian's aspiration is the pattern of the Word. Neutral Christians are a liability to the Kingdom of God, whereas balanced Christians add stability to the work of God everywhere.



Paul hated to build on another man's foundation so he might give himself to pioneer missionary evangelism. But we don't hesitate to construct even a second floor on someone else's building. At times we even

demolish another's building to steal materials for our construction. When will we stop these unethical practices?



Why talk about "advanced" leadership courses and seminars when we have failed in basic leadership? Let's strive hard to pass in the arrears of simplicity, sincerity and sacrifice. Only when we prove faithful in the basics, will God promote us to higher levels.



Ninetynine sheep were in tact; only one was lost; even then the shepherd went out to seek the lost. In our situation, only one percent is inside the Church whereas ninetynine percent is lost; even then we do not go out to seek them. What we need therefore is not just a revival or renewal but a total revolution in our thinking and practice.



Whereas in the second chapter of Acts we read that all the believers had sold their possessions and laid them at the apostles' feet, Peter in the third chapter told the lame beggar, Silver and gold "I" do not have! Preachers and pastors who keep the

ministerial funds in their "personal" bank account have a lesson of paramount importance here.



Satan promised an eyeopening to our first parents, but he actually blinded their eyes! Today he suggests so many things through the media as eyeopeners. But his intention is to make us stoneblind.



Some churches are just hospitals; the pastor's message week after week is only of comfort. Some other churches are creches; the members are perpetual infants. Still some others are battlefields; there are constant infightings. Several others are old people's homes; traditions are worshipped there. But there's another type of churches which are military bases where saints are trained and sent out as soldiers to fight the devil and free his captives. Which church do you belong to?



The gifts of the Spirit are like the tools a carpenter uses to make furniture. When he sells his products, he does not explain to his customers which tools he used for what. In the same way the Bible does not de-

scribe the gifts but just the results. Over-occupation with definitions and descriptions of gifts is unhealthy.



The people could not stop the blind man from crying; he cried all the more (Mk 10:47,48). The Pharisees could not stop the children and the disciples from praising God aloud (Lk 19:37-40). The rulers of the temple could not stop the apostles from proclaiming the truth (Acts 4:18,19; 5:28,29). Here's a warning to the backslidden clergy and the nominal Christians: "It is hard for you to kick against pricks!"



The keys of the Kingdom of Heaven were given to the Church. The keys of Hades and Death are with Christ. What a possibility to plunder Hell and populate Heaven!



God is heavyhearted; People are hardhearted; But we Christians are lighthearted. "Father, give tears to our dry eyes and send us to the unrepentant with Your burden. Time is running out!"

